



National Fire Plan

Fifth-Sixth Water Prescribed Fire Spanish Fork Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest October 2008

Project Description: This prescribed fire was conducted on the Spanish Fork Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, in the Fifth Water drainage west of Strawberry Ridge in Utah County. The fire was ignited primarily in Gambel oak and aspen with some mountain mahogany, choke cherry and mixed conifer. Project objectives included reducing hazardous fuels and creating age diversity within the shrub communities. Several benefits from the prescribed fire included provision for more effective, timely, and safe suppression efforts in the event of a wildland fire and creation of a natural fuel break. The prescribed fire was ignited aurally from a helicopter using a plastic sphere dispenser (PSD) and on the ground using drip torches; it was implemented by the Forest Service with assistance from Utah County fire resources, BLM resources, Fish and Wildlife Resources and Layton City Resources. A plastic sphere dispenser (PSD) is a device that has ping-pong sized spheres injected with potassium permanganate. Once the “ping pong balls” are expelled from the aircraft and touch ground, a chemical reaction takes place causing ignition on the ground.

- **Accomplishment:** The prescribed fire was accomplished during October 29-31, 2008 and was successful. Fire spread within the burn unit affected a perimeter encompassing 2,400 acres and met the project objectives of burning 40-60% of the shrub communities and burning 20 -30% of the stable aspen with mixed severity fire to establish a new cohort within uneven-aged, multi-storied stand structure. Fine fuels and small grasses appeared to have been reduced and soil cover maintained at desirable levels.



Doug Jones
djones02@fs.fed.us
801-342-5261